



Washington Weekly Brief

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On the Hill

Here's what we're tracking this week for EUCOM.

Bills of Interest:

HR 2003 - Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2007

- This bill would encourage and facilitate consolidation of security, human rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia. This would include counter terrorism and counter narcotics efforts.
- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- This bill was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, after passage in the House on October 3.

HR 2228 - Ethiopia Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Bill

- Closely related to HR 2003 this bill would also encourage the development of Ethiopia while also implementing counter terrorism and counter narcotics efforts.
- This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

HR 2446 - Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007

- This bill provides funding for programs to stabilize Afghanistan and counter the drug trade.
- This bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate, which referred it to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Star Print ordered July 17, 2007.

S 3001 - National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 (House version)

- This bill authorizes military activities and programs and DoD-wide programs for 2009.
- The bill was passed by both House and Senate committees, and sent to the White House for Presidential signature September 27, 2008.
- Became Public Law No 110-417 with President Bush's signature on October 14th.

HR 2638 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2009

- This bill authorizes Department of Defense activities and programs for FY 2009.
- The bill was attached to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2008 to continue appropriations for Department of Defense activities and programs that would be covered by the regular fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills.
- Became Public Law No: 110-329 on September 30, 2008.

Hearings of Interest:

There are no hearings of interest scheduled for this week.

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

Its official! On Monday Morning, President-elect Barrack Obama publicly announced the members of his national security team; the cabinet positions include Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State and National Security Advisor as well as Homeland Security Secretary, Attorney General and U.S. Ambassador to the UN. While the speculation on who would actually be tapped for these posts had been brewing for weeks, the names that had been circulating have finally come to light. They are as follows: Senator Clinton (D-NY) for Secretary of State, Robert Gates to continue as Secretary of Defense, General Jim Jones for National Security Advisor, Eric Holder for Attorney General, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano for Secretary of Homeland Security and Dr. Susan Rice as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

An article from ABC reporting the news summed up the picks most succinctly; "It is a mix of people from very different political orbits who hold divergent views on national security but all are steeped in experience." Pres-elect Obama held a press conference in Chicago on Monday where the choices were announced. Making the UN Ambassador a cabinet position is notable simply because it indicates that the Obama Administration could strengthen dialog with the UN. UN Ambassador was considered an executive post in the Clinton years but has not been at the cabinet level in the current Bush Administration. The President-elect explained during the event that his goal was to build a team based on experience, qualifications and capabilities rather than political affiliation or ideology; "I assembled this team because I'm a strong believer in strong personalities and strong opinions." He added that; "I think that's how the best decisions are made. One of the dangers in the White House, based on my reading of history, is that you get wrapped up in groupthink, and everyone agrees with everything, and there is no discussion, and there are no dissenting views. So, I am going to be welcoming a vigorous debate in the White House." Of course, the picks are not without controversy.

Immediately afterward, pundits argued that perhaps too much 'vigorous debate' would lead to counter-productivity. Even though Obama's Republican picks have generated bipartisan approval across the board, members of the far-left have voiced concern that what they hoped for in an Obama "change" administration is not coming to fruition, especially with the Jones and Gates picks. General Jones, former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, is an interesting choice not only because of his breadth of experience but his connection with Senator John McCain. Gen. Jones not only stumped with McCain during the campaign but served as Marine liaison to Capitol Hill in the late 1970s - he was nominally McCain's subordinate as Navy liaison. At this point, many still see Secretary Gates fulfilling a transitional role in the Pentagon. Nonetheless, numerous sources report that liberals are upset with Obama's decision to keep Gates at his post. Added to this is the fact that Obama's campaign rhetoric on 'immediate withdrawals from Iraq' has steadily shifted since the election. In his Monday press conference, the President-elect again indicated that Iraq withdrawals would still be on a tentative 16 month schedule but he added that withdrawal times and rates hinged on the advice and reports from commanders on the ground. Needless to say, all of this is probably *not* the "change" that far-left Obama supporters had in mind when they cast their votes. At this point, roughly half of the cabinet in the Obama Administration has been filled; TCG will collect and provide new and updated information as it arrives.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

One didn't have to stay glued to the TV or internet to stay in tune with all of the various world security threats that exploded over the Thanksgiving holiday. Beyond the frighteningly well-planned and executed terrorist attacks in India, Nigeria ignited with deadly religious riots and warring factions strengthened their positions in Congo. Additionally, Ethiopia stated that it would completely withdraw all of its troops from Somalia by the end of the year and a tentative deal seemed to be reached between Somali pirates and owners of the Ukrainian weapons freighter hijacked several months ago. Interestingly, all of these events have coincided with the release of the 120 page Director of National Intelligence/National Intelligence Council report entitled, *Global Trends 2025; A Transformed World*. Sources indicate that the report was timed for release in synch with the onset of the incoming Obama Administration. The report is the fourth of similar reports released by the DNI/NIC on future projected world security, economic and stability trends. The last three reports had a more short term focus with projection estimates stretched out in five year increments; 2010, 2015 and 2020. Past reports differed from this latest installment in that data and estimates derived from very select sources within the intelligence community. This fourth report not only depended on information and analysis from the IC but also incorporated expertise from outside think-tanks and academia. This report covers a number of interrelated issues including: global economic trends, shifts in world power holdings, terrorism, WMD proliferation, climate change, agricultural issues, energy, human migration patterns and other geopolitical interests. While the report forecasts the future, the analysis is largely built upon contemporary trends and changes currently taking shape. Much of the report focuses on the potential shift in global

economic power, especially China and India, trends which have been hinted at for years. It also pays considerable attention to Iran, North Korea, and tension between India and Pakistan. Climate change, and its various impacts in certain regions and the connections to political stability and development, is also given a notable spotlight. The growth of Islam in Western Europe, future world power sharing relationships and the potential for a unified Korean Peninsula are some of the more interesting portions of the document. The report also includes a number of fictional scenarios that add food for thought. While many of the conclusions in the report are not revolutionary, the points and concerns are relevant and the contents are still worth taking a look at.

Selected News for EUCOM

- [German General Breaks Silence on Afghanistan](#)
- [Taliban Seen Earning up to 304M Pounds From Opium](#)
- [Gang Smashed in US\\$500M Cocaine Haul](#)
- [Internet Drug Peddlers Raided in 9 Countries](#)

The Lighter Side

Quote of the Week

"No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit."

~Helen Keller

"There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits to human intelligence, imagination, and wonder."

~Ronald Reagan

Prediction of the Week

Even with their playoff chances slipping away with a heartbreaking loss to the Carolina Panthers on Sunday November 30th, the Green Bay Packers will finish out the 2009 season over .500 when they win all of their last 4 games. This will start next week on December 7th when they give the recently victorious Houston Texans an NFL wake-up call. Cold weather home field advantage will play in Green Bay's favor and they will make at least one defensive touchdown off the turnover-prone Texans. Go Pack Go!

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